

suggest a flow adjusting plate interfering with the first flow path to supply the first radicals towards a center of the substrate mounted on the supporting table, as defined in Claim 41.

M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 requires that all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of the claim against the prior art. M.P.E.P. § 2123 I states that a reference may be relied on for all it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art, including non-preferred embodiments.

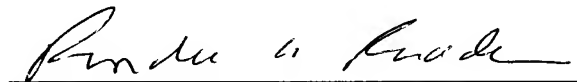
Accordingly, with no showing in Sano et al of the flow adjusting plates defined in independent Claims 33 and 41, Claims 33 and 41 (and the claims dependent therefrom) are believed to patentably define over the art of record.

Conclusion:

In light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618

Attachment: Applicants' Figures 4 and 10B

I:\ATTY\RAR\AMENDMENTS (2008)\278536US\RESPONSE WITH RCE TO OA 10032008.DOC

FIG. 4

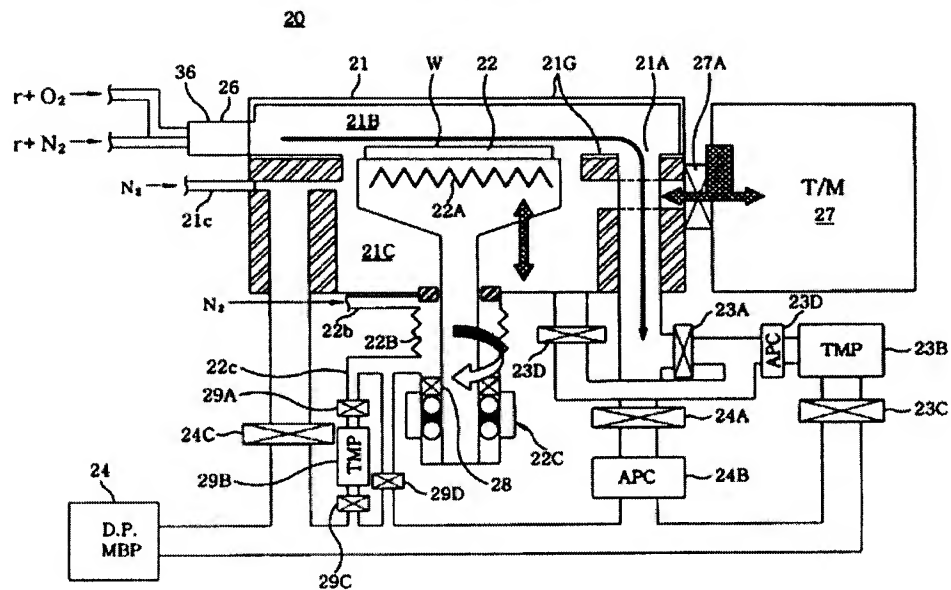


FIG. 10B

